Chapter XI

Policing Research Studies

Results from a variety of empirical studies are presented in this chapter. All studies are concerned with knowledge management in law enforcement.

Police Officers’ Professional Knowledge

Holgersson (2005) identified and described, in his doctoral dissertation, different types of knowledge that are part of police officers’ practice. This case description is based on his work.

Even though an intervention usually forces a police officer to apply several different skills, Holgersson (2005) has chosen to discuss different forms of professional knowledge separately, in order to make things easier to comprehend for the reader. In general, a large part of police officers’ professional knowledge, as well as professional knowledge in many other contexts, is complex and difficult to describe and explain in words. The police profession is distinguished by the broad range of skills that are required, and by the time pressure under which actions often must be taken.

Earlier in this book, Holgersson’s (2005) total of 30 knowledge types in policing were presented. Six of the most important types are presented in the following. The six selected knowledge types are the first five types and the final
thirtieth type presented earlier. These are different forms of professional knowledge that a police officer should possess.

**Using the Skills of Other Police Officers**

_Fourteen-year old Sarah never came to school that day. She was lying with her face buried in her pillow and her eyes were bloodshot from crying. Patrol 7337 consisting of police inspector Fredrik Påhlsson and senior police officer Anna Ekeroth had the task to register a report. When they rang the doorbell to the apartment at Advokatbacken and were let inside by the girl’s mother, they did not know much more of the case than that a pupil at Albyskolan had been attacked on her way to school. The mother told them briefly that a man in his forties had molested her daughter. He had pulled up her t-shirt from behind and held her in his grip, while he started to stroke her breasts. Since Fredrik Påhlsson and Anna Ekeroth had worked together so much, they did not need more than eye contact, some small movements with their eyebrows and a small nod to agree over how they would divide their tasks._

The ability to use police officers’ skills can be coupled to individuals, patrols, and groups. One type of knowledge that is coupled to the level of the individual is a police officer’s ability to understand his own and his colleagues’ stronger and weaker sides in case of an intervention. This means that he has an intuitive feeling for how the tasks shall be divided, when to step forward and take the initiative, and when to step backwards and leave the initiative to a colleague; for example, when a patrol is involved in a discussion. The ability to distribute the tasks in an appropriate manner is important within a patrol as well as between patrols, when several patrols are involved in a certain situation. A commander’s ability to form patrols and take advantage of a group in the best possible way is a part of this knowledge category.

To be able to distribute the working tasks in an appropriate manner, a police officer needs to know which measures and routines usually come up in a certain situation. Besides knowing the area well, it is important to have knowledge about reoccurring crimes, specific problems, and individuals within the area. For a distribution of the working tasks in a way that fits the situation, it usually is of central importance that there is a dialogue between the police officers.
Procedure Based on Semantic Similarity for Merging Ontologies by Non-Redundant Knowledge Enrichment
Carlos Ramón Rangel, Junior Altamiranda, Mariela Cerrada and Jose Aguilar (2018).
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